



State of California  
The Natural Resources Agency  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Kings Creek Truck Trail and Skyview Road Fuel Break		
PROJECT LOCATION	Portions of Sec 29, 30 and 32 T8S, R2W MDBM	COUNTY	Santa Cruz
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Andrew Hubbs		
ADDRESS	6059 Highway 9 Felton, CA 95018	PHONE	(831) 335-6794

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project will create two conditions of modified fuels; a shaded fuel break in woodland formations and a residual mosaic in brush formations on approximately 18 acres within road corridors along the lower portions of Kings Creek Truck Trail and Skyview Road. The road corridor is defined as having a maximum width of 50' from the edge of the running surface along both sides of the road, however over most of the project area, treatment will be limited to a width of 25' from the edge of the road due to steep slopes. Creation of the shaded fuel break will generally rely on a combination of hand cutting and subsequent in-place mastication, while the residual brush mosaic will generally rely on mastication only. The objectives will be to disrupt the horizontal continuity of surface fuels, vertical continuity resulting from ladder fuels, and increase crown spacing. Woodland formations will be treated with a "thin from below" approach reducing surface and ladder fuels and increasing crown spacing removing tree species up to 12" DBH. Brush formations will be treated with a residual mosaic approach (leaving islands of intact formation comprising approximately 30% of the original cover). The project will also treat fuels in two strategically located refuge areas that are still associated with the two roads but whose boundaries extend up to 100' from the edge of the road. The project area is located on a combination of ridge top and upper mid-slope positions. Techniques intended to avoid or minimize impacts to resources have been incorporated into project design, including surveying to avoid sensitive species and cultural sites, and allowing equipment use only when conditions are such that damage to soils is not likely.

### EXEMPTION STATUS

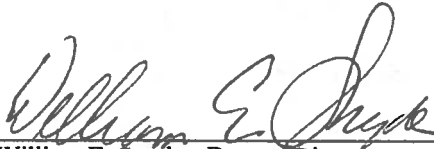
- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 §15304 Minor Alterations to Land  
☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):  
☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)  
☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))  
☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

### REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

The work proposed is a minor alteration to vegetation which does not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees and is consistent with Categorical Exemption Class 4 - Minor Alterations to Land. No activity is proposed that is listed as a limitation under CCR 15300.2 (a-f).

Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit Headquarters, 6059 Highway 9, Felton, CA 95018.

### DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

  
William E. Snyder, Deputy Director  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

5/7/12  
RECEIVED  
MAY - 8 2012  
STATE CLEARING HOUSE